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BOOKS RECEIVED.

AMERICAN STATE REPORTS.—Volume 56. San Francisco. Bancroft-Whitney Company. 1897.

We have so often testified in these columns to the excellence of this series of reports, that it needs but to be added that the present volume maintains the standard long since fixed by previous volumes. Besides a judicious selection of cases reported in full, with brief notes referring to previous cases in the same series, the volume before us is especially rich in monographic notes on important topics. The more elaborate of these are: *Fiduciary Relations of Mortgagor and Mortgagee* (2 pp.); *Agreements to Control the Future Voting of Stock at Corporate Elections* (15 pp.); *Architects' Certificates and Engineers' Estimates* (5 pp.); *Assignment of Expectancies* (22 pp.); *Subsequent Parol Agreement to Vary a Writing* (13 pp.); *Acknowledgments—interest of officers as a disqualification* (5 pp.); *Liability of Owners of Elevators Used for Passengers or Employees* (4 pp.); *Law of Lis Pendens* (25 pp.).

The only adverse criticism to be made of previous volumes was their unwieldy bulkiness. A marked improvement is noted in this respect in the present volume. By the use of a different paper, the size of the volume is considerably reduced, without diminishing the usual number of pages.

A TREATISE ON THE LAW OF BAILEMENTS, INCLUDING CARRIERS, INNKEEPERS, AND PLEDGE.—By JAMES SCHOULER, LL. D., Professor in the Boston University Law School, and author of treatises on the "Law of Domestic Relations," "Wills," "Personal Property" and "Executors." Third edition. Boston. Little, Brown & Company. 1897.

Mr. Schouler is one of the few modern law writers who writes for the same reason that the poet sings—because he is full of his subject and cannot help it. His text-books are not machine-made, and turned out to order in a given time. There is about them something suggesting honest, hand-made work, and inviting the confidence which such work always inspires.

The present work has been before the public for some years, and has received the cordial approval of bench and bar. It is a thoroughly scholarly treatise; and excels rather in accuracy of statement than in the number of pages devoted to particular topics, or in the multitude of cases cited.

The new edition before us takes notice of the latest decisions of importance, and a chapter has been added upon the new topic of the Interstate Commerce Act of Congress. We heartily commend the work, not as a "case winner," or as a digest of "all the cases," but for use of lawyers who desire to equip themselves with sound notions on the subjects of which it treats.

A TREATISE ON THE LAW IN RELATION TO PROMOTERS AND THE PROMOTION OF CORPORATIONS.—By ARTHUR M. ALGER. Boston. Little, Brown & Company. 1897.

The term "promoter" is one of ill omen, especially to the practitioner in those States which enjoyed the recent disastrous distinction of being "on a boom." Virginia was especially distinguished in that respect. Every cross-roads village expected to rival New York as a business centre, and town lots were boomed accordingly. The term "promoter," until then an unfamiliar phrase, was on every tongue, and promotion was the order of the day. Outlying lands, scarcely pro-